**\*\*\* SHADE \*\*\*** A brief story by "Ampe R. Sand" (Andrew Plotkin) First-time players should type "about". Release 3 / Serial number 001127 / Inform v6.21 Library 6/10 Odd, how the light just makes your apartment gloomier. Pre-dawn darkness pools in the corners and around the tops of walls. Your desk lamp glares yellow, but the shadows only draw your eyes and deepen. Not much of an apartment, no. One desk, paper-piled, with a dusty computer shoved to the side. Your futon. Second-hand stereo sitting on a cardboard crate. A kitchen nook one way and a bathroom nook the other, with a closet to the side. A broad mirror tries to make the place seem twice its size; it halfway works. One window, whose shade is down, and the front door firmly shut. Your luggage is piled untidily by the door. A potted hyacinth sits beneath the window. You are sprawled on the futon, staring up into that gloom. Your eyes feel gritty. But it's too late -- early -- no time left for sleep, anyway.

In a few hours your ride will arrive. On the desk are your to-do list and a travel book.

>Read the book

You won't accomplish much while slumped on the futon. That's been getting slowly more apparent for hours now.

>pick up to-do list You won't accomplish much while slumped on the futon. That's been getting slowly more apparent for hours now.

>get up

You lever yourself upright. Umf. It's amazing how much lack of sleep feels like a hangover, only without the preceding party.

>find the bathroom

The bathroom nook is in the living room. Come to think of it, as with a hangover, dehydration is probably the problem. Your mouth is dry wool.

>go to bathroom sink

You can't see any such thing.

>go to sink

You can't see any such thing.

>go to shower

You can't see any such thing.

>get water

Which do you mean, the water from the bathroom sink, the water from the shower or the water from the kitchen sink?

>get water from the bathroom sink

Which do you mean, the water from the bathroom sink, the water from the shower or the water from the kitchen sink?

>bathroom sink

I only understood you as far as wanting to get the water from the bathroom sink.

>go get water from the bathroom sink

You can't see any such thing.

>yell at the god of this universe

That's not a verb I recognize.

>why did you think I was yelling at you?

That's not a verb I recognize.

>make it rain

That's not a verb I recognize.

>absorb ambient humidity

That's not a verb I recognize.

>cry

That's not a verb I recognize.

>call the police

That's not a verb I recognize.

>faint That's not a verb I recognize.

>resume drinking

That's not a verb I recognize.

>I want to get water from the bathroom sink I only understood you as far as wanting to inventory.

>I want to inventory

I only understood you as far as wanting to inventory.

>what is the inventory

That's not a verb I recognize.

>?

That's not a verb I recognize.

>what do I see?

That's not a verb I recognize.

>what do I have?

That's not a verb I recognize.

>brush my teeth

That's not a verb I recognize.

>so what am I supposed to do for personal hygiene after this supposed bender?

That's not a verb I recognize.

>find a glass

The glass is in the kitchen nook, on the kitchen counter.

>go get the glass

You can't see any such thing.

>go to the kitchen nook

You can't see any such thing.

>take glass to sink I only understood you as far as wanting to take the glass.

>take glass

You step into the kitchen nook. Taken.

>fill glass with water

(the water from the kitchen sink) Nothing comes from the tap but an eerie distant howling. The kitchen sink hasn't worked since you moved in.

>go to bathroom sink

You can't see any such thing.

>go to bathroom nook

You can't see any such thing.

>leave kitchen nook

You step out of the kitchen nook.

>go to bathroom nook

You can't see any such thing.

>go to futon

You can't see any such thing.

>clean my glasses

Just "clean". When you clean, it's pretty much cleaning the whole area.

>fine then; clean everything

That's not a verb I recognize.

>find water

(the water from the bathroom sink) Try the bathroom. You're still feeling thirsty.

>go to bathroom

You can't see any such thing.

>go to sink

You can't see any such thing.

>find bathroom nook

The bathroom nook is in the living room.

>go to living room

You can't see any such thing.

>where am I, then?

You know where you are. That's not a verb I recognize.

>I do not.

I only understood you as far as wanting to inventory.

>do that, then

You can't talk to your to-do list.

>Watch me.

You're you.

>I wasn't talking to me.

I only understood you as far as wanting to inventory.

>walk to bathroom nook

You can't see any such thing.

>find water

(the water from the bathroom sink) Try the bathroom.

>try the bathroom

That's not a verb I recognize.

>walk to bathroom

You can't see any such thing.

>can I smell it?

That's not a verb I recognize.

>So, that's a no.

You seem to want to talk to someone, but I can't see whom.

>That's because you are invisible, you useless little god of this universe. Your vocabulary is atrocious and you are incredibly bossy.

You seem to want to talk to someone, but I can't see whom.

>go back to sleep

You can't see any such thing.

>Is that a dare?

That's not a verb I recognize.

>Goodnight!

That's not a verb I recognize